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**ASPIRA Association, Inc.**

***Report to the  
National Board of Directors***

**By**

**Ronald Blackburn-Moreno  
President**

**February, 2002**





# **PROGRESS REPORT**

to the

## ***NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

of the

**ASPIRA Association**

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President

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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This Progress Report covers the activities of the National Office in the six months between August 2001 and January 2002. The last report to the Board of Directors was presented at the meeting of the Board of Directors in August 2001.

During this five-month period, the major focus of the National Office's efforts has been on strengthening and expanding the new strategy for support of the Associate offices, that of identifying and cultivating contacts locally and to provide technical assistance and support to Associates so they secure significant local funding, creating a true partnership with the Associate offices. This has included developing a new business model for the National Office as well as for its relationship with the Associate offices. In addition, efforts have continued in joint program development, enhanced communications and direct technical assistance, the partnership with the Associate Offices. The emphasis has, hence, been on developing the capacity of the Associates and assisting them in securing funding directly. The strategy has proven highly successful as this report will show because there have been multiple local and national opportunities that the Associates have been able to tap into directly. Perhaps the best example of this strategy is the support provided to ASPIRA de PR, IL, CT, NJ and PA in starting and developing the Cisco System Academies around the country.

In addition to this support, the National Office dedicated significant effort to: the ASPIRA/COE National Conference "Technology Tools for Teaching and Learning" in

San Juan; further fund development for the operation of the National Office; new national initiatives in health and highway safety education for youth and in Personal Finance education (with CitiGroup and GMAC); expanding the Association's technology initiatives (CTCs, technical training, internal technology infrastructure, and the Cisco Systems collaborative); expanding ASPIRA's role in national public policy issues (especially around the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act); collaborations with (and support of) national Hispanic and non-Hispanic organizations, especially the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (which ASPIRA chairs), MANA, the National Community for Latino Leadership, Mentor, the National Education Association, and the Academy for Educational Development; further development of the ASPIRA Institute of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture; and external communications to increase ASPIRA national visibility.

The major successes over the past five months have been:

- The designation of the National Office as a **Cisco Systems Regional Academy** (one of few national organizations that have this designation), and taking the initial steps to start Cisco Systems Academies with ASPIRA of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois and Connecticut, in addition to the existing regional academy of ASPIRA de Puerto Rico;
- ASPIRA was ranked by Hispanic Business magazine as the **largest national Hispanic organization in the country**, with a combined
- **The ASPIRA National Conference on Technology** in San Juan organized by ASPIRA of NJ, ASPIRA de Puerto Rico and the Council for Opportunity in Education and the ASPIRA Association, attended by over 650 participants from around the country and which generated significant revenue in excess of cost;
- The mention of ASPIRA as a **national model in mentoring** in the legislative language of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ("Leave no Child Behind")
- Securing **increased general operating funds** from corporations, a significant grant from Verizon (\$200,000) and continued support from New York Life Foundation and Lucent Technologies;
- Development of a **"fee for service"** model with outside corporations and organizations to help support the general operation of the office;
- Expansion of the number of **CTCs**, through the final approval of six additional CTCs (being delivered in March);
- **New formal collaboratives** established through written collaborative agreements (U.S. Department of Transportation for internships, Stargazer.net, National Education Association, the el Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe (ASPIRA IPRAC - Dr. Ricardo Alegria), the DC Department of Transportation), and the strengthening of existing collaborations (Educational Testing Service, U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services);
- Continued **expansion of ASPIRA's technology capabilities** through on-going technical assistance to the Associates, expansion of ASPIRA's Web Site (several

new sites added and others expanded), further training and development of the Management Information System in Illinois, Florida and Pennsylvania (including training), submission of E-Rate proposals for schools in NJ and the ASIPRA schools in PA and IL, pilot-testing of the on-line Counselor's Training Program, the development of ASPIRA's own Web-Based e-mail system, expansion of ASPIRA's CTC web site, transfer of web site control to the Associates, and training of teachers and staff on technology at various Associates.

- Approximately 25 students from ASPIRA Offices participated in a Youth Safety Conference held in California in July.
- Extensive collaborations with national Hispanic organizations and with the Government of Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Office, P.R. Convention Bureau) and the successful collaboration with the National Puerto Rican coalition and the P.R. Office of Federal Affairs in co-sponsoring a major *Tres Reyes Magos* event in Washington, DC.
- The addition of new staff at the National Office, including two full time staff in programs and a new accountant

## National Recognitions:



In its September edition,

Hispanic Business

Magazine ranked the

ASPIRA Association as the

largest national Latino organization in the country with a combined

national budget of over \$26 million. The ASPIRA National Office

receives multiple accolades from corporations, other national Hispanic

and non-Hispanic organizations and from friends for this designation.

This recognition is an important fund raising tool that ASPIRA is using in all documents and proposals.

The **2001** **HISPANIC BUSINESS**  
**Nonprofit 25**

ASPIRA was also recognized specifically in the legislative language of the *Leave no Child Behind Act* or the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, along with other major national organizations, as a model in developing mentoring programs for youth. The mention is in the Congressional Record. The Statement is as follows:

*The Conferees wish to recognize the expertise and experience of mentoring organizations, such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Camp Fire Boys and Girls, Boys and Girls Clubs, National Mentoring Partnership, the Young Men's Christian Association, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, ASPIRA, League of United Latin American Citizens, 100 Black Men of America and National 4-H Council, in providing training and technical support for mentoring programs. These organizations have a long history of supporting mentoring for youth and have established networks of mentoring*

## ASPIRA National Conference:

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In December, ASPIRA of New Jersey, ASPIRA de Puerto Rico, the Council for Opportunity in Education and the National Office co-sponsored the Conference *Technology Tools for Teaching and Learning* in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Over 650 participants



from all over the United States attended the conference. The conference, sponsored by Verizon, AOL-Time Warner, Ford Motor Company, Daimler Chrysler, Educational Testing Service, Coors Brewing, Universidad del Este, Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, covered an array of topics in technology and education (dozens of concurrent sessions), as well as a host of "hands-on" sessions at the Universidad del Este. In addition, a significant group of exhibitors attended, as well as 200 teachers from Puerto Rico's public schools. The conference generated unrestricted income for ASPIRA of New Jersey as well as for the National Office. Given the success of the conference, this year's conference is already being planned with COE, and will be held in San Juan on December 8-11, 2002.

## Building ASPIRA's Capacity Through Association-wide Activities:

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Over the past two years, the National Office has developed, following its **Strategic Plan**, and in strict collaboration with the Associate Offices, a series of initiatives to build the program and administrative **capability** of the Association as a whole, strengthening the Association-wide infrastructure that will allow us to be more effective in delivering programs and more efficient and accountable in our management.

The strategy is basically to develop local capacity and provide support in seeking local resources for local program with the support and assistance of the National Office. The old model was geared at assisting the Associates by developing national programs through the Associate offices. Though the National Office will continue to develop model programs in collaboration with the Associate offices, the new strategy will tap a much larger pool of funds and better ensure local program sustainability.

strategy represents a major change in the relationship with the Associates offices – developing local capacity to ensure sustainability and growth through the development and support of local capacity in both fund-raising and program delivery.

During this period, the collaborations with the Associates included:

#### National Cisco Systems Academy

The National Office was designated by Cisco Systems as a Cisco Regional Academy. Only one other organization in the country has this designation. Through negotiations with Cisco, the National Office is allowed to develop Local Cisco Academies in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. The first training of ASPIRA Cisco trainers began in February with staff from ASPIRA of NJ and ASPIRA of Pennsylvania being trained by Cisco Systems. Once trained, these staff will train the trainers at ASPIRA of Connecticut. All three Associates are planning to develop multiple Local Cisco Academies in their states. This will allow these Associates to generate considerable unrestricted funding with little or no expense, since they already have the technology infrastructure to deliver the program

A key element in this effort has been to assist the Associates in securing contacts with their local Workforce Employment Act program, which are the major potential funders of the Cisco Academy. Proposals have been developed for several Associates for submission to their local WEA programs.

In addition to the continued support of the Cisco Academy of ASPIRA de Puerto Rico (the National Office continues to be involved in securing major funding for the program through the various WEA consortia in Puerto Rico), ASPIRA also helped ASPIRA of Illinois to begin a Local Cisco Academy in Chicago. The contacts were made and ASPIRA of Illinois staff is already being trained to deliver the program.

In addition to the support provided directly to start local academies under the National Office, support continues to be provided to ASPIRA de Puerto Rico in their Cisco Academy.

#### Training

The National Office has provided training to the Associates in a variety of areas to further develop their capacity. These have included:

- Training of ASPIRA schools staff at ASPIRA of Florida, ASPIRA of Pennsylvania and ASPIRA of Illinois in the use of technology in the classroom;
- Training on Leadership Development at ASPIRA of Illinois and ASPIRA of Florida;
- Training on the use of the Academic Advisors On-Line Training System at ASPIRA of Illinois, Pennsylvania and Florida; and

- Training on the MAS Academy at ASPIRA of New Jersey, ASPIRA of Illinois and ASPIRA of Florida.

### Other Initiatives

The Associates are involved in a host of activities to help develop local funding for Associates. During this period, the National Office has developed proposals for ASPIRA of Illinois, New Jersey and Puerto Rico. Another example was that contacts with Verizon resulted a \$75,000 Verizon grant to ASPIRA de Puerto Rico and the possibility of a major grant from Verizon later this year.

As the Associates move to increase the number of schools that they operate (e.g., ASPIRA of Florida is expecting to have four schools, ASPIRA of Illinois at least three and ASPIRA of PA several), more attention will be placed on providing support and resources for these schools. An example is the negotiation currently underway with Texas Instruments (TI) to develop a major teacher professional development program at ASPIRA of Pennsylvania and ASPIRA of Florida in mathematics, provided by TI, which will bring technology, standards based math curriculum and pedagogy to these schools.

There are several other collaboratives currently being negotiated that will benefit specific Associate offices in support of their local initiatives.

### Technology

ASPIRA continues to expand its capabilities in technology. Several Associate offices have now been trained on the use of the MIS and are implementing the system locally with on-going support of the National Office. In addition, several Associates are using the on-line New Advisors Training program. The ASPIRA Web Site continues to expand and is receiving accolades from within and outside the Association for its usefulness. New sites on the ASPIRA Web Site include:

- *¡Aprendamos Español!*, resources to learn Spanish



- HIV Education Web Site
- Mentoring curriculum in Mental Health Careers



The IPRAC web site has been expanded considerably and is updated constantly.

Hence it has become a national resource for information on Puerto Rico. It is currently the largest on-line resource for information on Puerto Rican history and culture on the web. Funding is being sought through various foundations to further expand this initiative.

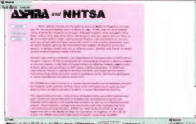
As part of the development of the Associate Offices, the web pages of the Associates are progressively being transferred to the Associates. Currently, ASPIRA of CT, NY, PA have total control over their web site. They have re-designed their sites and are updating their information. The National Office continues to provide technical assistance and web hosting.



The National Office also developed a secure computer system after September 11, 2001. The entire system is "mirrored" on a separate server to ensure that all files are secure.

The National Office developed a new ASPIRA Web Based e-mail service

through which any ASPIRA staff can have access to their e-mails via any computer. The system works very much like the more popular e-mail services such as AOL, Yahoo and Hotmail. The system was designed after ASPIRA of NY encountered the problem that their advisors could not access their e-mails





from the schools in which they work (they do not have laptops). Now over 120 ASPIRA staff have access to this new e-mail system.

Through a collaboration with the Hispanic Information and Technology Network (HITNET), ASPIRA has submitted proposals to secure the E-Rate (Internet access subsidized by the Federal Government up to 90%) for ASPIRA schools in Illinois (Antonia Pantoja High School), PA (E.M. de Hostos), and over 24 public schools in New Jersey that collaborate with ASPIRA of New Jersey.

## **Collaborations**

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### New Collaborations

The National Office has developed a series of new collaborations to strengthen its programs. One of the most important is the formal collaboration being signed with the *Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe*. This collaborative agreement, reached with the new Chancellor, Dr. Juan M. González Lamela, successor to Dr. Ricardo Alegría, will provide ASPIRA access to the extensive historical and cultural resources of the *Centro* to be disseminated via the web and other means.. In exchange, ASPIRA will support the *Centro* through web hosting, developing their technology base and helping them disseminate their programs nationally. This new collaborative will be an enormous boost to ASPIRA's IPRAC.

ASPIRA also developed a collaborative with **Stargazer.com** a major organization dedicated to promote the use of technology in non-profit organizations. Founded by one of the main AOL founders, Stargazer has an enormous amount of technology resources that ASPIRA now has access to, such as interactive communications capabilities, information on education and linkages with other non-profit organizations.

A new collaborative agreement has been signed with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Through ASPIRA's collaboration with DOT, 25 students participated in a safety conference in California. The new MOU calls for an Internship Program, that will bring between 15 and 20 college students from across the ASPIRA Associates to Washington for a full summer – and 5 during the fall and spring semesters- (with a \$450/week stipend) to work at the Department in various programs.

Other collaborations include an agreement with the National Hispanic Police Officers Association; SAMHSA's National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information; Youth Law Center on their Juvenile Justice Initiative; and Office of Personnel and Management on increasing Hispanic participation in Federal Workforce. Finally, the National Office and the Puerto Rico Office of Federal Affairs.

New collaboratives are being developed with Texas Instruments, CitiGroup, GMAC Financing and others to develop specific programs (see Programs, below).

### Strengthening Existing Collaboratives

ASPIRA is strengthening several existing collaboratives, including the long standing collaboration with Educational Testing Service, the National Education Association, The Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Transportation, all of which generate resources for ASPIRA. In the collaboration with ETS, the National Office is negotiating to conduct several trainings at ETS and to use their services to fully develop the on-line Advisors training program, as well as to further develop technology capabilities. With the NEA, the National Office is developing a collaborative around education reform. ASPIRA's President continues to serve on the board of the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education (NFIE), a distinguished foundation that offers grants to teachers for professional development. ASPIRA also remains on the board of the Laboratory for Student Success at Temple University, a Department of Education national laboratory.

### Collaborations with Hispanic Organizations



The new strategy of developing a stronger relationship with the Associates to ensure their sustainability has allowed the National Office to dedicate time to further enhancing its visibility and influence among Hispanic organizations. ASPIRA's President continues to chair the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility, which recently renegotiated its agreement with Coors Brewing, and developed a new agreement with MGM Grand. Monitoring visits were made to Detroit to visit the three auto makers (Ford, GM, Daimler Chrysler) and Golden to monitor the agreement with Coors Brewing Co.



ASPIRA continues to be active in the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda and the Hispanic Telecommunications Network. Through the latter, ASPIRA has been involved in informing members of Congress on the new Telecommunications Act (Tauzin-Dingell). ASPIRA is also active in the Hispanic Education Coalition that was instrumental in shaping the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Moreover, ASPIRA was active in the *Unidos for America Campaign* to help the victims of the September 11 attacks.

Other collaborations have included strengthening ASPIRA's ties with the P.R. Federal Affairs Administration (PRFFA), which is now run by Ms. Mari Carmen Aponte, a good friend of ASPIRA's. ASPIRA collaborated with PRFFA and the National Puerto Rican Coalition to organize a Three Kings Day event at the Organization of American States. The event attracted over 650 people.

ASPIRA has developed new collaborations with the National Association of Hispanic Publications around technology, with *MANA, A National Latina Organization* (joint project on mentoring young Latinas, which was submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services), with *Mentor* a national organization of Hispanic corporate employees to develop a mentoring program for young Hispanic corporate employees.

As a board member of the National Community for Latino Leadership, ASPIRA is involved in the strategic planning of the organization and in its research

## **Fund Development for the National Office**

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During this year, ASPIRA has been fortunate to increase its general operating support. New annual supporters include General Motors and Advantica (Denny's). Ford Motor Co. increased its general support to \$25,000. The National Office also sought funding for the National Conference and secured \$55,000 from Ford Motor, Daimler Chrysler, Coors Brewing, AOL-Time Warner and ETS, which it shared with ASPIRA of New Jersey.

The National Office also received an expected grant of \$200,000 from Verizon, and renewed funding (\$150,000) from Lucent Technologies for the MAS Academy. Negotiations are now on-going for a major technical assistance grant from AOL-Time Warner (\$450,000/year for two years requested).

A new \$100,000 grant from the Office of minority Health was approved under our agreement with DHHS. A new \$50,000 grant from the D.C. Department of Transportation was approved to develop materials and newsletters in Spanish on traffic safety.

A series of proposals have been submitted that include:

- Ford Motor Co. - \$250,000 Youth Leadership
- Daimler-Chrysler - \$250,000 Youth Leadership
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - \$1 million 3 years Health Careers
- NHTSA - \$50,000 - Highway Safety
- Pfizer - \$50,000 - Health Careers
- NHTSA - \$1 million - 5 Years Washington Internships
- Edelman Group - \$250,000 Youth in Technical Careers



With support of the Associate Offices, we now have a fund finding service that can provide all offices with information on grants and foundations across the country. The service, Prospect Research On line, provides information on thousands of foundations nation-wide as well as information on government grants.

The National Office is beginning to engage in a new initiative to secure unrestricted funding. The strategy is to provide services, mostly in technology (technical assistance, training) to organizations that pay a "fee for service." Through this arrangement, ASPIRA provides a service for which its expenditures are lower than actual cost, leaving a margin of unrestricted funding for the office operations. So far, one contract was completed with the Sistema Universitario Ana G. Méndez in Puerto Rico for a total of

\$30,000. A new contract with SUAGM for \$200,000 is pending approval, which would generate \$50,000 for the National Office. The National Office is reviewing the possibility of having this contract be the first under a new for-profit arm authorized by the National Board of Directors.

## **National Office Programs**

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### Community Technology Centers

There are currently 38 ASPIRA CTCs in place or approved.

Location	Operational	Approved	Proposed
Florida	3	3	
Puerto Rico	4	4	6
Connecticut	2		
New York	3	2	
New Jersey	7		
Illinois	2		
Pennsylvania	2		
Washington, DC	3	1	
Cleveland, OH	1		
San Jose, CA	1		
Total	28	10	6

### MAS Academy

A MAS Academy training was conducted for ASPIRA of IL and ASPIRA of NJ this month. Over 30 teachers were trained to implement the Academy in several schools in New Jersey and a middle school in Chicago. Funding for a third year was received from Lucent Technologies for the program.

### Health Careers

The National Office has just completed a *Mentoring Manual* and Web Site to develop mentoring programs to encourage students to enter health careers, especially mental health. It is also developing an initiative on HIV, developing materials on prevention for Latino youth. These programs are funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services under the Collaborative Agreement with between ASPIRA and the Department. The Agreement was just renewed for an additional five years. The agreement allows ASPIRA to solicit funds and receive grants without entering into a grants competition.

ASPIRA is currently developing a Spanish language companion to the HIV/AIDS curriculum: Promoting Healthy Communities. This is being made possible through the hiring of a new staff member, Ms. Fabiola Donato, a former ASPIRA Intern from Puerto Rico. It is also developing a new publication: Helping Students Succeed along the Allied Health Professions Educational Pathways, a publication geared to professions that work with middle school and high schools students. This publication is currently being edited and will be released in April.

#### New Programs: Personal Finance

The National office is developing a new model program initiative with the support of GMAC Financing and potential major support from GitiGroup on Personal Finance Education for youth and adults. This new program would better prepare young people to plan and administer their personal finances. A total of \$35,000 has been approved by GMAC to develop an initial training on credit. Other topics will include: Savings; The household Budget; Credit; Purchasing and Financing a Vehicle or a Home; Personal Banking.

### **Public Policy**

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In addition to ASPIRA's work on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act The Office of Public Policy and Federal Relations has developed an electronic ASPIRA **Policy Notes** newsletter that will be going out on a bi-monthly basis to ASPIRA Board Members, ASPIRA Partners, and Executive Directors and key management and policy staff. The Policy Notes will highlight key public policy issues and provide information on grant information and announcements. Moreover the **ASPIRA Pitirre**, also in electronic format, will be going out to ASPIRA Executive Directors, and Staff highlighting information on grants, training opportunities, scholarships and internship opportunities for students.

### **Successes of the Associates**

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This section includes a brief description of the major activities and successes of the associate Offices in which the National office has in some form helped to support. More complete reports of the Associates are provided by each associate at the Board meeting:

**ASPIRA of CT** – Has secured their building and are developing their programs successfully. They are about to open their new office in Hartford, CT. On November 16th, hundreds of *Aspirantes* and community leaders gathered for ASPIRA's first annual statewide leadership conference. The conference was made possible through the generous support of State Farm Insurance. ASPIRA of Connecticut now has a Chat Room. The chat room is a valuable tool for *Aspirantes* to communicate with each other and to get information about the latest ASPIRA projects. From time to time, there are



scheduled chats with special guests. The Clubs Federation welcomed two new schools for the 2001-2002 school year. The newest clubs are: Rogers Park Middle School in Danbury and Slade Middle School in New Britain. In total, over 300 youth at 13 schools across Connecticut are involved in ASPIRA Clubs.

ASPIRA of Florida – ASPIRA of Florida now has four charter schools approved.

ASPIRA of Florida now has a host of new programs and has now two fully operational CTCs with high speed internet connection. In addition, ASPIRA of FL now has two fully operational CTCs, with computers donated by Power-Up. ASPIRA of FL continues to receive extensive technical assistance in developing the centers and ensuring high speed access.



During PROFESA 2nd Annual Gala Victoria Hernandez, Chair of the ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. Board of Directors and Raul A. Martinez, President and CEO were recognized with the *Empower Award* to the Puerto Rican Community in South Florida. PROFESA, is a Puerto Rican Profesional Association dedicated to promoting Puerto Rican values and culture, among other initiatives. ASPIRA of Florida was also awarded

ASPIRA of Illinois – The major collaboration with ASPIRA of Illinois continues to be the pilot testing of the Management Information System (MIS). They are committed to the system and have been instrumental in revising it to really meet our needs. The MIS at Illinois is now fully operational. The Junior Technical College has gone extremely well. ASPIRA of IL just signed an agreement with Northwestern Illinois University to expand the Antonia Pantoja School to their facilities, enabling it to expand its school at its current location.



In addition, through the coordination by the National Office, ASPIRA of Illinois is sharing its Oracle Learning Center with ASPIRA de Puerto Rico. Its Joyce Foundation project Chicagoland Latino Educational Research Institute (CLERI) is about to issue its first report on its research on schools this summer, and is poised to conduct training through its Outcomes-Based Evaluation Project.

ASPIRA of New Jersey – Held will hold its Annual Luncheon in March and its Third Annual Youth Convocation. Aspira's Fourth Annual Latino Education Conference will be held at Bally's Park Place Hotel Atlantic City, New Jersey, May 5-7, 2002. ASPIRA of NJ already working on the national technology conference in Puerto Rico in December.

**ASPIRA of New York** – Will hold its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Circle of Achievers on May 20, 2002, following their very successful fund-raising luncheon last May. Luncheon Chairman will be Reuben Mark, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Colgate-Palmolive Company. In addition, its APEX program has expanded. ASPIRA of NY now has two fully operational CTCs and is planning two more. It has also implemented the MAS Academy in its Beacon Schools. The MAS Academy will be the basis for a proposal to establish a science and technology Charter School by ASPIRA of NY. ASPIRA of NY has been one of the most successful in implementing the APEX program, recruiting hundreds of parents across the city.



ASPIRA of New York has also developed an impressive web site in both English and Spanish. Visit it at <http://www.nyaspira.org>.

**ASPIRA of Pennsylvania** – The CTC at Eugenio Ma. De Hostos Charter School continues to be a success and to grow. The school is expanding its enrollment next year. The Executive Director, Mr. Alfredo Calderón has been working closely with the National Office on a variety of initiatives, particularly around funding opportunities to expand ASPIRA's operations, the MIS and strengthening the school.



ASPIRA of PA is also redesigning its web site.



**ASPIRA de Puerto Rico** – Completed the construction of a new facility which has four state of the art computer learning laboratories. The Cisco Academy, now in its second session, has been highly successful as well.

expand the  
providing extensive support to ASPIRA de Puerto Rico on its technology initiative  
generally.

**de Puerto Rico**

ASPIRA de Puerto Rico is seeking ways to  
Academy. The National Office has been

## **Finance and Management**

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### Accounting

The National Office accountant suddenly departed in May. The accounting firm of González and Associates was hired. Mr. Mark Eisenstadt, CPA is assigned to ASPIRA. Ms. Maribel Torres, our former accountant, is working with the National Office on the

audit and the transition. The accounting and reporting challenges reported in the past have been overcome with the addition of the new accountant and accounting, reporting and cost recovery are up to date.

#### FY 2001 Audit

Soza, Inc. the external auditors, has initiated the audit for FY 2001, and has completed up to March. It will complete the audit in early March. The delay this year resulted from a change in accountants and scheduling with the auditing firm.

#### Revised FY 2002 Budget

A proposed Revised Budget is being submitted to the Board for approval to cover the adjustments required after six months of operations into the FY (July-Dec.)